

The Galbraith House
West side of Montgomery Street
between Wall and Commercial Streets
Idaho City
Boise County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-7

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ID-7

THE GALBRAITH HOUSE

Location: West side of Montgomery Street, between Wall and Commercial Streets, Idaho City, Boise County, Idaho.

Latitude: 43° 49' 39" Longitude: 115° 49' 59".

Present Owner: Marie McDonald.

Present Occupant: Mrs. Ida Lindell.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Significance: This simple frame house exemplifies the 19th century residential architecture in territorial Idaho. Board and batten siding, rough sawn lumber, steep gable roof, and porch are the typical elements in Idaho City houses.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1867.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The house stands on Lot 2, Block B in the townsite of Idaho City Plat of 1915. The deed information is from the County Recorder and Auditor's Office, Idaho City, Idaho.

In 1876 the house was sold to Matt Luney, who married Mrs. Galbraith and was stepfather to her children. Remaining in the Galbraith family well into the 20th century, the house has always been used as a residence.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: Not known.
6. Alterations and additions: Sometime after 1965, the original roof structure over the front porch was replaced with wooden material. In 1969, a bathroom was built in the north side of the house. The original six-over-six double hung sash window was removed from this bathroom. Another original six-over-six double-hung sash window on the south elevation was replaced with a one-over-one double hung sash window.

B. Bibliography:

Deed Books, Boise County Recorder and Auditor's Office, Idaho City, Idaho.

Prepared by: Alan Minskoff
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small frame house is typical of the permanent type of single family residences which were erected in this community as the mining camp was evolving into a permanent city.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The T-shaped house measures approximately 16' (three-bay front) x 40'.
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The east (front) elevation has horizontal clapboard siding. The walls on the north, south and west sides and the additions are rough sawn vertical board and batten siding. The whole house is painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame construction supports the house.
5. Porch: There is an enclosed porch with chamfered columns on the front elevation.
6. Chimney: A simple brick chimney projects from the roof just off the center of the north slope.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front door has two long, vertical round-arch panels with a semi-circular transom. A decorative shouldered lintel is above this transom. The west addition has a plain wooden door.

- b. Windows and shutters: Two windows on the front elevation are long windows, each with two rows of four lights and louvered shutters. A decorative shouldered lintel is above each window. A six-over-nine double hung sash window is on the north side. The windows in the south elevation are one-over-one double hung sash windows which are not original. A small casement window lights the addition.
8. Roof: A steep gable roof shelters the original portion of the house. The additions have shed roofs. All roofs are covered with corrugated, galvanized steel roofing. The front gable end has a decorative bargeboard.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The front door leads to a small alcove. From this another door opens into the front room. A third door, directly in line with the front door, opens into the kitchen and bedroom space. To the north of this space is a bathroom.

The rear door leads to the wooden shed. A small stair at the northwest corner of the shed leads to the main house.

2. Stairway: A small stairway of simple design is located at the northwest corner of the rear shed.
3. Flooring: The original wooden floor is covered with linoleum flooring manufactured by Congoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are covered with muslin-lined wallpaper over rough shiplap boards.
5. Doors: The interior doors are two-paneled pine doors with surface mounted locksets and white glass knobs.
6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: A wood burning stove is used in the front space and a coal and wood stove is in the kitchen and bedroom space. The latter stove was manufactured by Wehrle Company in Newark, Ohio.
 - b. Lighting: The lighting is incandescent.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces east.
2. Historic landscape design: There are hop vines growing on the front porch posts.

3. Outbuildings: There is a small board and batten frame garage in the rear yard. An outhouse building is located near the west side (rear) of the house.

Prepared by: William B. McCroskey
Project Director
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Idaho City project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), in cooperation with the Idaho Bicentennial Commission in the summer of 1974. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, the project was completed by William B. McCroskey (University of Idaho), the project director; Alan Minskoff (University of Chicago), the project historian; Jack W. Schäfer (University of Cincinnati), the project foreman, and the student assistant architects, Rae F. Noritake (University of Idaho), Laurence Ferar (University of Oregon), and Mark T. Wellen (Texas Tech University). William Klein, a HABS staff architect in the Washington office, edited the drawings in 1975. The written architectural and historical data was edited in April 1980 by Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington office. The documentary photographs were made by Duane Garrett in 1976.